Talking Points for Portal Steering Committee
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Accessibility Training and Resources Will Be Available:

- The Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) recently completed an RFP for Web Accessibility Training to deliver to State of California Web Masters.
- DOR has contracted with Design Media to develop 8 Web Master training sessions that are to occur between August 23 and September 29, 2006.
  - Level 1 (Introductory Training) addressing:
    - Overview of Section 508
    - Specific requirements of Section 508 Paragraph 1194.22 parts (a) through (k).
    - Overview of accessibility issues involving technology other than the Web.
  - Level 2 (Advanced Training) addressing:
    - Section 508 Standards
    - Web accessibility tools
    - Section 508 Conformance and Proven Practices
- Resources and training material will be made available from the State CIO's web site for Web masters to go back and use as a reference when implementing these techniques.

Historical Background of Web Accessibility Law:

- In 1998, Section 508 of the amended Rehabilitation Act requires Federal Government to procure, develop and use electronic and information technology (E & IT) that is accessible to people with disabilities and compatible for interactive use with their assistive technology.
  - Section 508 includes Technical Standards that specifically require that all Web-based Intranet and Internet Information and applications be accessible to people with disabilities.

- 2001, all Federal entities are required and expected to be in compliance with the Section 508.
- 2003, California adopts Section 508 Standards, as is, through Senate Bill 105, which amends Government Code 11135.
  - Effective January 1, 2003
  - State Government and entities that receive State funds must comply with Section 508.

Statewide Issues of Concern:

- Since January 1, 2003, web accessibility is more important than ever due to the exponential rate that Web sites and Web content are being added to the World Wide Web.
- Far too many Web sites still are not accessible to people with disabilities that seek to use the Web for employment, leisure, and/or to conduct personal transactions with the State.
- Many Webmasters and IT professionals lack the training and resources necessary to implement and comply with the Section 508 Standards.
- It's a known fact that people with disabilities offer a largely untapped resource to business since there are over 20% of the American population have a disability… and the number is growing as adults live longer and we see the rise in Baby Boomers.
  - Creating accessible Web sites provides an opportunity for California to benefit from this untapped resource.
  - Creates an opportunity for IT vendors to compete in order to create the most accessible technology available to Government to procure and benefit from.